

THE TRIAL OF THE PYX

Members of the Annual Assay Commission are participants in a ritual which has persisted throughout the centuries. While its origin is lost in antiquity it is known that the ancient Greeks took much pride in the weight and fineness of their coins and the authorities kept a close check on the coiners. The Romans minted their coins in the Temple of Juno Moneta, and while they may have attributed the fineness of their coins to that goddess, we can be sure that the realistic Romans didn't trust to luck entirely.

From The Coinage of England by Charles Oman we learn that during the period of the Crusades the Anglo-Saxons gave considerable attention to the weight and fineness of their coin. Laws approved by Ethelred's Witan at London in 1002 provided heavy penalties for any mint master who took his tools to a secret place -- a wood is suggested -- and there, out of sight of all witnesses, struck coins which were unsatisfactory in weight or metal. Apparently this was sometimes done in collusion with merchants who went to a moneyer with low-quality foreign pence or base bullion and induced him to recoin them with his dies in a surreptitious fashion.

After the Norman Conquest of England the weight and purity of the King's pennies showed a marked decline. In order to establish a sound money policy and to correct the situation before Christmas in the year 1124, Henry I commanded that all moneyers of England should be deprived of their members. The decree was carried out on some 94 hapless individuals, prompting one chronicler's report that there was a great money scarcity the following year due to lack of moneyers.

A more sociable gathering took place in 1208 when King John summoned his moneyers to Westminster. They brought their workmen, assayers and dies with them, apparently for a general assize and verification of issues like the Trial of the Pyx of later days.

Records tell of an assembly in 1248 of moneyers, custodes cuneorum (die mechanics) and assayers of all the mints. The meeting was attended by Henry III, the Mayor of London and many magnates, at which time a jury of professional goldsmiths made assays of two wedges of silver, one of pure metal and one of the standard coinage metal.

The Trial of the Pyx became established as a continuous and regular ceremony during the reign of Edward III (1327-1376). By his proclamation, it was provided:

"So soom as the moneys are coyned and compleate, the Warden to receave yt as the Master receaveth yt from the monerers, and putt yt in one Chest shut with two keys. And before the moneys bee paid to the Marchant, as the request of the said Master, the Warden shall make tryall of yt, and if yt shall not bee so good as yt is undertaken, yt shalbee returned to the said Master to bee remolten at his owne proper costs."

This "assize" consisted of placing in small sealed boxes (pyxides) fair, random samples of the gold and silver currencies which were then weighed in the presence of the King's representatives and finally melted down and refined in order that their fineness might be verified. There was a "remedy" allowed for slight excess or defect of weight in individual coins, but the whole bulk of each box was required to correspond to the amount in grains and penny-weights which the sum in the box represented by count. The object of refining, with a small similar "remedy" for loss of metal in the furnace, was to discover whether there was the proper residuum of pure gold or silver left in the cupel after the moderate amount of official alloy had been evaporated in the furnace. The trials were at first at such short intervals - three months - that it was necessary to have a distinguishing privy mark for the coins of each trimestral issue, in order that it might be certain that only the most recent emission was being tested.

Alexander Hamilton, in presenting to the Congress in 1791 the result of his "inquiries and reflections" relative to the establishment of a Mint, concluded that the "remedy for errors in the weight and alloy of the coins must necessarily form a part in the system of the Mint; and the manner of applying it will require to be regulated." In his message he described the English system of preserving samples of coinage in the pyx box, for mass assaying by a jury of the Company of Goldsmiths in the presence of the Lord Chancellor, the officers of the Treasury and others.

The Mint of the United States was established in 1792. The same Act of Congress which authorized it also provided for the Annual Assay Commission to be composed of the Chief Justice of the United States, the Secretary and Comptroller of the Treasury, the Secretary of the Department of State and the Attorney General of the United States.

Regular coinage commenced in 1793. However, it has been stated that the first coins from the Philadelphia Mint were silver half dimes, struck in October of 1792, and also some silver dimes. These pieces were in the nature of pattern or experimental strikes. According to the record books of Henry Voigt, the chief coiner, thirty and one-half gallons of rum were purchased during that month. As there were but few employees around the Mint then to consume so much rum, speculation is that some kind of entertainment or celebration took place on this momentous occasion.

Whether an Assay Commission was appointed to examine these early pieces is not known. However, it is believed that the Assay Commission has met each year since it was first created in 1792, with few exceptions. In 1801, when the capital was moved, the February meeting was postponed. It is presumed that the condition of the roads in mid-winter made it impossible to travel with horses from Washington to Philadelphia. When the meeting could not be held on the prescribed date, Elias Boudinot, Director of the Mint, wrote an indignant letter to President John Adams complaining that the public's confidence was being undermined and that the depositors were clamoring for the coins retained for examination. In those days the Mint operated on a "custom" basis, taking in bullion from individuals and returning to them an appropriate weight of coins. Thus the specimens retained for the annual assaying really belonged to the customers of the Mint. Congress solved the problem by providing for a meeting in April of that year.

There is some evidence that an Assay Commission did not meet in 1817 to examine the prior year's silver coinage because there was none. The reason, it appears, was that on January 11, 1816 a fire broke out in the millhouse, an old wooden shack in the Mint's backyard and this blaze spread to the adjoining building which contained the rolling and drawing apparatus necessary to make planchets for gold and silver coins, causing extensive damage which was not repaired until the following year.

The law now provides that the Assay Commission shall be composed of the Judge of the District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, the Comptroller of the Currency, the Assayer of the Assay Office at New York and such other persons as the President shall designate. The first authorization for the public to serve on the Commission was provided by statute in 1837. Being composed almost entirely of impartial citizens, independent of the Mint service, the Assay Commission reports to the President any deviations in coins beyond the legal limits. The object of its meeting is to insure the greatest care on the part of the coiners in conforming in all respects to legal weights and finenesses. The knowledge that any coin may be selected for this check has an excellent psychological effect upon the officers of the coinage mints, which is of great value in keeping our coinage standards at the highest possible level.

As the annual assay or trial of the coinage takes place after the coin has been issued, any error that might have occurred would not be discovered in time for its prompt correction. It is for this reason that for over fifty years precautionary measures have been instituted to make special assays before coin is released. Each Mint Assayer, an independent official appointed by the President, is required to certify that all coinage ingots prepared in the Mint and strip purchased from outside contractors are within legal limits of deviation before they are delivered to the Coining Division, and no ingots or purchased strip may be used for coinage which are not so certified by the Assayer. After the ingots are received by the coiner,

the latter is required to adjust the weight of the single pieces of coin produced so as to have them conform with the legal limits of tolerance. When a delivery of finished coin is turned over to the Superintendent of the Mint, there is taken at random not less than one piece for each 100,000 pieces, or fractional part thereof, of subsidiary coins and dollars delivered, except that one piece for each 200,000 dimes delivered is taken. Samples are taken for the annual assay without selection or previous weighing. Further, subsidiary coins and dollars from each delivery made to the Superintendent must be sent to the Office of the Director of the Mint in Washington where they are tested for conformity in weight and fineness before they may be released to the Federal Reserve Banks and Branches which distribute the coin to the banking system throughout the Nation.

During calendar year 1975 the United States Mints produced several hundred million pieces of dollars and subsidiary coin. Inasmuch as the pyx box contains many thousand coins taken at random throughout the year from Mint production, it is clear that the Commission could not be expected to examine every single one of them. The Commission is therefore expected to examine only such number as satisfies it as being representative of the whole.

Each year the Commission adopts, with such modifications as it deems appropriate, the set of rules for its organization and government used by the previous Commission. With little change, the same rules have been in effect since 1856 when they were prepared by the Senior Federal Judge in Philadelphia, the District Attorney and the Collector of Customs for the Port of Philadelphia.

EXCERPTS FROM EARLY ASSAY COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS

In the 1840s the Assay Commission procedures were recorded in beautiful, ornate Spencerian script, carefully reciting the enabling laws and procedures. Regulars in attendance, dictated by the Act of January 18, 1837, included judge of the United States district court for the eastern district of Pennsylvania, collector for the port of Pennsylvania, and the U.S. attorney for the eastern district.

They were joined by commissioners appointed by the president. These were men of high station, many from the academic, judicial and military world: Example: One commissioner was a professor from Yale "College". (For posterity names of every commissioner may be found in the National Archives.) Always present were officers of the mint: director, treasurer, chief coiner, melter and refiner, assayer, assistant assayer and engraver. Protocol was carefully followed, making certain "a majority of the whole number of the commissioners legally constituted being ascertained as to be present"...

The minutes carefully recorded names of anyone who left during the process or who were absent. For example, it was recorded one official had to leave before the assay, and the collector of the port did not attend in 1843. The next year the engraver was "prevented from attending by sickness." The commissioners who seemed to be the Who's Who of The East Coast were charged with "the purpose of making the annual trial of the pieces of the gold and silver coins reserved from time to time at the Philadelphia Mint and its branches."

The commission revised internal rules in 1857 but the official 1837 act remained in effect. In 1863, when "a majority of the number of commissioners legally constituted not being present," the director of the mint designated the next day for the official meeting, with those present sufficient, and the commissioners present agreed.

The commissioners were informed each year of every major change of mint and branch mint personnel from superintendent to assistant coiner. At the 1852 meeting, the commissioners paid tribute to chief coiner Adam Eckfeldt, calling him a friend of everyone connected with the mint. The 1858 minutes reflect close mint identity with the assay commission. The director of the mint said: "I rise to perform a melancholy duty, to suggest that some memento should be placed in the minutes of this board to express its respect for the memory of the Hon. John R. Kane, Pennsylvania district judge, who for many years presided at the annual trials of the coinage of the United States. With characteristic devotion to his public duties, at the last annual assay, Judge Kane arose from a sick bed to take his accustomed place."

Records for the 1846 session show: "The gold and silver coins from the Philadelphia Mint, reserved from time to time during the year 1845 . . . were taken from the chest in which they had been kept, and were counted and the number and kind of pieces compared with the registers and found to correspond in every particular."

"Also the gold and silver coins from the Branch Mint at New Orleans and the gold coins from the Branch Mint at Dahlonega transmitted under seal to the Director of the Mint." (Charlotte, N. C. was added the next year.) The reserved gold pieces counted in 1846 amounted to \$1,232.50.

1841

Monday February 8th

at a meeting of The Commissioners appointed under the thirty second section of The Act entitled "An Act supplementary to an act entitled an act establishing a mint and regulating the coins of The United States" passed the 18th January 1837 held at The Mint of The United States on Monday the eighth day of February one thousand eight hundred and forty one for the purpose of making the annual trial of the pieces of the gold and silver coins reserved at the Mint at Philadelphia and its branches

Present

Hon. Joseph Hopkinson Judge of The District Court of The United States
for The Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Calvin Blythe Collector of The Port of Philadelphia

John. M. Reade Attorney of The United States for The Eastern District
of Pennsylvania

Professor Nathaniel Chapman

William McShanic Esquire

Professor Joseph Henry

also Present

Commissioners designated by The
President.

The Directors

The Treasurer

The Chief Coiners

The Melters & Refiners

The Assayer

The Engravers.

The Commissioners proceeded to examine and count the pieces of gold coins and pieces of silver coins hitherto indiscriminately taken by The Treasurer in the presence of The Assayer and deposited and kept under the joint care of The Treasurer and assayer

1842.

Mint of the United States,

Monday, February 14, 1842.

The Commissioners appointed under the 32d Sect. of the Act of January 18, 1837, met, in conformity with the provisions of that act, for the purpose of making the annual trial of the gold and silver coins received at the Mint and its Branches, during the year 1841.

Present:

Jonathan Roberts, Collector of the	} Commissioner
Port of Philadelphia.	
	} <u>ex officio.</u>

Thomas P. Cope of Philadelphia.	} Commissioners designated
James C. Booth, " "	
	} by the President.

Also present:

The following officers of the Mint:

The Director,	The Melter & Refiner,
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The Treasurer,	The Assayer,
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The Chief Coiner,	The Engraver.
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The office of United States District Judge is at present vacant: Wm. M. Meredith, Esq., District Attorney, and Commissioner ex officio, was unable to remain for the Assay; and James M. Porter, of Easton, one of the Commissioners designated by the President, was unable to attend.

Count of the Received Coins.

The gold and silver coins received, from time to time,

11
1843.

Mint of the United States,
Monday, February 13, 1843.

The Commissioners appointed under the 32^d section of the ^{Mint} Act of January 18th, 1837, met in conformity with the provisions of that act, for the purpose of making the annual trial of the gold and silver coins received at the Mint and its Branches, during the year 1842.

Present:

Hon. Archibald Randall, Judge of the U. S. Dist. Court, Eas. Dist. of Penn ^a .	} Commissioners ex officio.
Henry M. Watts, Esq., U. S. Attorney for the Eastern Dist. of Penn ^a .	

Gen. Robert Patterson, of Philadelphia,	} Commissioners designated by the President.
Prof. John Torrey, " New York,	
Prof. John F. Frazer, " Philadelphia,	

Also present:

The following officers of the Mint:

The Director	The Melter & Refiner
The Treasurer	The Assayer
The Chief Coiner	The Engraver

Thomas S. Smith, Esq., Collector of the Port, one of the Commissioners ex officio, did not attend.

1844.

Mint of the United States,
Monday, Feb. 12, 1844.

The Commissioners appointed under the 32d Sect. of the Mint Act of Jan. 18, 1837, met in conformity with the provisions of that Act, for the purpose of making the Annual trial of the gold and silver coins reserved at the Mint and its Branches, during the year 1843.

Present:

Hon. Archibald Randall, Judge of U. S. Dist. Court, Eas. Dist. of Penn.	} Commissioners ex officio.
Henry M. Watts, Esq., U. S. Attorney for the Eas. Dist. of Penn.	
Calvin Blythe, Esq., Collector of the Port of Philadelphia.	

Edward Coles, Esq., of Philadelphia,	} Commissioners designated by the President.
Prof. James Renwick, of New York,	
Samuel N. Merrick, Esq., of Philadelphia.	

Also present the following Officers of the Mint:

The Director,	The Melter & Refiner,
The Treasurer,	The Assayer,
The Chief Coiner,	The Assistant Assayer.

The Engraver was prevented from attending by sickness.

1845.

Mint of the United States,

Monday February 10th 1845.

The Commissioners appointed under the 32^d Sect. of the Mint Act of January 18, 1837, met in conformity with the provisions of that Act, for the purpose of making the annual trial of the gold and silver coins reserved at the Mint and its Branches during the year 1844.

Present.

Hon. Archibald Mandall, Judge of the U.S.

Dist. Court, Eas. Dist. of Penn.

Henry M. Walcott, Esq., U.S. Attorney for the
Eas. Dist. of Penn.,Calvin Blythe, Esq., Collector of the Port
of Philadelphia.

Commissioners
ex
officio.

Gen. George Cadwalader of Philadelphia

Samuel J. Beebe, Esq. of New York

Robert Tyler, Esq., of Philadelphia

Prof. Julius S. Dacot, ^{of Baltimore,} did not attend.

Commissioners
designated by
the President.

Also present the following officers of the Mint.

The Director,

The Melted Refiner,

The Treasurer,

The Assayer,

The Chief Coiner,

The Engraver,

The Assistant Assayer.

1846.

Mint of the United States.

Monday, Feb. 9, 1846

The Commissioners appointed under the 32^d Sect. of the Mint Act of Jan. 18, 1837, met, in conformity with the provisions of that act, for the purpose of making the annual trial of the gold and silver coins, reserved at the Mint and its Branches, during the year 1845.

Present

Hon. Archibald Randall, Judge U. S.

Dist. Court, E. Dist. of Penn.

Thomas M. Pettit, Esq. U. S. Attorney
for the E. Dist. of Penns.

Henry Horn, Esq. Collector of the Port
of Philadelphia

Commissioners
ex officio

Professor Benjamin Silliman, of
Yale College, New Haven, Conn.

Rev. Dr. Geo. W. Bethune, of Philadelphia

Alon. Dallas Locke, Esq. of Washington
City, D. C.

Commissioners
designated by the
President

Also present

{1847}

Mint of the United States

Monday, Feb. 8th, 1847

The Commissioners appointed under the 32^d sect. of the Mint Act of Jan. 18, 1837, met, in conformity with the provisions of that act, for the purpose of making the annual trial of the gold and silver coins, reserved at the Mint and its Branches, during the year 1846.

The Director of the Mint read the 32^d section of the Act of Congress of Jan. 18, 1837, "Supplementary to the act entitled 'An act establishing a mint and regulating the coins of the United States'."

The Director of the Mint also presented a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, dated the 5th inst., which was read; and it thereby appeared that Professor Henry Vethake and Professor John P. Frazer of the University of Pennsylvania, and Professor John W. Draper of the University of New York are specially designated by the President for the purposes set forth in said section.

A majority of the whole number of the Commissioners legally constituted being ascertained to be present, viz. Hon. John S. Kane, Judge of the District Court of the United States for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania; Thomas M. Pettit, Esq. Attorney of the United States for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania; James Page, Esq. Collector of the Port of Philadelphia, being the Commissioners ex officio; and ^{Prof. John W. Draper} John W. Draper M. D. of the University of New York, Professor Henry Vethake of the University of Pennsylvania, and Professor John P. Frazer of the University of Pennsylvania, being the Commissioners specially designated, the Commission was declared duly organized; and all the officers of the Mint being present, the Chair was taken by the Hon.

Also present the following Officers of the Mint

The Director The Melter and Refiner.

The Treasurer The Assayer.

The Chief Coiner The Engraver

The Assistant Assayer

The Chair was taken by the Hon. Judge Randall.

The laws bearing upon the duties of the Commissioners of Assay were then read; namely, sections 8, 9, 10, 22, 25, 27 & 28 ¹³² of the Act of Jan. 18, 1837; the act of May 19, 1828; and Sect. 4 of the act of March 3, 1835.

The Minutes of the last annual Assay were read, and it was resolved that the Order then adopted should be pursued on the present occasion.

Count of Reserved Coins

The gold and silver coins of the Philadelphia Mint, reserved from time to time during the year 1845, for the annual assay, according to the provisions of the 27th Sect. of the Act of Jan. 18, 1837, were taken from the chest in which they had been kept, and were counted and the number and kind of pieces compared with the registers and found to correspond in every particular.

Also the gold and silver coins from the Branch Mint at New Orleans, and the gold coins from the Branch Mint at Dahlonega, — transmitted under seal to the Director of the Mint,

John H. Kase.;

The laws bearing upon the duties of the Commissioners of Assay, were then read; namely, sections 8, 9, 10, 22, 25, 27 & 28 of the Mint act of Jan. 18th, 1807; the act of May 19th, 1828; and sect. 4, of the act of March 3, 1835.

The minutes of the last annual assay were read, and it was resolved that the course then adopted should be pursued on the present occasion.

Count of Reserved Coins.

The gold and silver coins of the Philadelphia Mint, reserved from time to time during the year 1846, for the annual assay, according to the provisions of the 27th sect. of the act of Jan. 18, 1807, were taken from the chest in which they had been kept, and were counted, and the number and kind of pieces compared with the registers, and found to correspond in every particular.

Also the gold and silver coins of the Branch Mint at New Orleans, and the gold coins from the Branch Mints at Dahlonega, Ga., and Charlotte, N. C., - transmitted under seal to the Director of the Mint, agreeably to the provisions of the 4th section of the act of March 3d, 1835, to establish Branches of the Mint of the United States, - were counted, and the number and kind of pieces compared with the registers, and were found to correspond with them in every instance.

Weight of Reserved Coins.

The Commissioners then directed that the several parcels of coins should be weighed; when the following results were obtained.

The reserved gold coins of the Philadelphia Mint were of the value of \$1,232.50 and consequently their legal weight was Oz. 66.247

{ 1848 }

Mint of the United States

Monday, Feb. 14, 1848

The Commission appointed for the purpose of making the annual trial of the gold and silver coins reserved at the Mint and its Branches during the year 1847, met at the Mint on Monday Feb. 14th, 1848.

Previous to its organization the Director read the 32d section of the act of Congress of Jan. 18, 1837, supplementary to the act entitled "an act establishing a Mint and regulating the coins of the United States," being the section of law which declares the manner in which the Commission shall be constituted.

The Director also presented a letter from Mr. Blinckock Young, Esq., acting Secretary of the Treasury, dated Jan. 29th, ult., and it thereby appeared that Professor Robley Dunglison, of the Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, Professor James B. Rogers, of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, and Professor E. N. Horsford, of Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass., had been appointed as Special Commissioners, under the above section, to attend the annual assay.

A majority of the whole number of the Commissioners, legally constituted being ascertained to be present, viz. Hon. John K. Kane, Judge of the District Court of the United States for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Thomas M. Pettit, Esq.

Attorney of the United States for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, and James Page, Esq., Collector of the Port of Philadelphia, being the Commissioners ex officio; and Professors Robley Dunglison, James B. Rogers and E. M. Horsford, above named, being the Commissioners specially designated; the Commission was duly organized, the Chair being taken by Hon. Judge Kane, and Robert Patterson, Directors Clerk acting as Secretary.

The laws bearing upon the duties of the Commissioners were then read; namely, sections 8, 9, 10, 22, 25, 27 & 28 of the Mint Act of Jan. 18, 1837; the act of May 19, 1828; and sect. 4 of the act of March 3, 1835. The minutes of the last annual assay were also read.

The following resolutions were adopted, specifying the manner in which the business of the Commission should be conducted.

1. Resolved

That the Commissioners will proceed

1. To count the pieces which have been reserved at the Mint and its Branches, for the purposes of the annual trial, under the provisions of § 27 of the act of Jan. 18, 1837, and § 4 of the act of 3 March 1835, and to compare the same with the registry made thereof, at the time of their deposit under that Section.

{ 1849 }

Mint of the United States

Monday Feb. 12, 1849.

The Commission appointed for the purpose of making the annual trial of the gold and silver coins reserved at the Mint and its Branches, during the year 1848, met at the Mint, on Monday, Feb. 12, 1849. The Chair was taken by the Hon. Judge Kane, and Robert Patterson, Director's clerk was selected as Secretary.

The 32d Section of the act of Jan. 18, 1837, declaring the manner in which the Commission shall be constituted, was then read; and also a letter from the Hon. R. J. Walker, Secretary of the Treasury, dated the 26th ult., announcing the designation by the President of Edw. John Johnston, of Middlebury, Conn., John A. Aspinwall, Esq. of New York, and Prof. John C. Cresson, and J. J. Vandekamp, Esq. of Philadelphia, as Special Commissioners under the above Section.

A majority of the whole number of Commissioners legally constituted were present; namely, Hon. John R. Kane, Judge of the District Court of the United States for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Thomas R. Pettit, Esq. Attorney of the United States for the same district, and James Page, Esq. Collector of the Port of Philadelphia, they being the Commissioners ex officio; and Professors Johnston and Cresson, J. A. Aspinwall, and J. J. Vandekamp, Esq's, above named, they being the Commissioners specially designated. The officers of the Mint were also present.

The laws bearing upon the duties of the Commissioners were then read, namely Sections 8, 9, 10, 22, 25 and 27 of the act of Jan. 18, 1837, supplementary to the act entitled "an act estab-

1350.

Minut of the United States.

Monday, Feb. 11.

The Commission appointed for the purpose of making the annual trial of the gold and silver coin reserved at the Mint and at Branches during the year 1849, met at the Mint on Monday, Feb. 11th 1850. The Chair was taken by the Hon. Judge Kane, and Robert Patterson, Daniel Clark, and Seibert W. Tordella.

The 32^d section of the act of Jan. 18th 1837, declaring the manner in which the Commission shall be constituted, was then read, and also letters from Hon. William M. Meredith, Secretary of the Treasury, announcing the designation by the President of Prof. Edward Hitchcock, of Amherst College, Mass., and John Price McNeill and Henry M. Watts, Esquires, of Philadelphia as Special Commissioners under the above section.

A majority of the whole number of Commissioners, legally constituted, was present; namely, Hon. John S. Kane, Judge of the District Court of the United States, for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania; John W. Ashmead, Esq., Attorney of the United States for the same district; William A. Reid, Esq., Collector of the Port of Philadelphia; - they being the Commissioners *in officio*; - and John Price McNeill & Henry M. Watts, Esqs, they being Commissioners specially designated. The Officers of the Mint were also in attendance.

The laws bearing upon the duties of the Commissioners were then read; namely, Sections 8, 9, 10, 22, 25 & 27 of the Mint Act of Jan. 18th 1837; the act of May 19th 1828; Section 4th of the Act of March 3^d 1835; and the act of March 3^d 1849. The Min-

Mint of the United States

Monday Feb. 10

The Commissioners appointed for the purpose of making the annual trial of the gold & silver coins of the United States at the Mint & its Branches during the year 1850, met at the Mint on Monday Feb. 10, 1851. The Chair was taken by the Hon. Judge Kane, and Robert Patterson, Director of the Mint, was selected as Secretary.

The 32^d section of the act of Jan. 18, 1837, declaring the manner in which the Commission shall be constituted, was then read, and also, "letter from the Hon. Thomas Corwin, Secretary of the Treasury, announcing the designation, by the President, of the Hon. Joseph R. Ingersoll, of Philad^a, Professor Edward Hitchcock, of Amherst College, Mass., Stephen Colwell, Chas. B. Foy, & Daniel B. Smith Esq. of Phil^a, & David M. Stone Esq. of New York as Special Commissioners under the above section

A majority of the whole number of Commissioners legally constituted was present; namely, the Hon. John W. Kane, Judge of the District Court of the United States for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania; John W. Ashmead, Esq. Attorney of the United States from the same district; Wm. B. Davis, Esq. Collector of the Port of Philad^a, - they being the Commissioners ex officio, - and Prof. Edward Hitchcock, Hon. J. R. Ingersoll, Daniel B. Smith, David M. Stone, & Chas. B. Foy, & Stephen Colwell, - they being the Commissioners specially designated. The Officers of the Mint were also in attendance.

The laws bearing upon the duties of the Commissioners were then read; namely, Sections 8, 9, 10, 22, 25 & 27 of the Act

1852

Mint of the United States

Feb. 9th

The Commissioners appointed for the purpose of making the annual trial of the gold & silver coins ordered at the Mint of the United States and its Branches under the provisions of the 32^d section of the Act of Jan. 18, 1837, met at the Mint on Monday Feb'y 9th 1852. The chair was taken by the Hon. Judge Lane, and Robert Patterson, Directors Clerk, was appointed to act as Secretary.

The 32^d section of the Act of Jan. 18, 1837, containing the provisions under which the Commission is constituted, was then read, and also Letters from the Secretary of the Treasury naming the Special Commissioners designated by the President.

A majority of the whole number of the Commissioners legally constituted was found to be present; namely, Hon. John K. Kane Judge of the District Court of the United States for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, - John W. Acknowled, Esq. Attorney of the United States for the same district, - they being Commissioners ex officio: - Dr. Robert Marc, Dr. Samuel Moore, & Stephen Schell Esq. all of Philad^a, they being Commissioners specially designated. The members of the Commission who were absent were Prof. Benjamin Silliman, Special Commissioner, and William D. Lewis Esq. Collector of the Port of Philadelphia, a Commissioner ex officio.

The minutes of the last annual meeting were then read.

The Director reminded the Commissioners that the venerable Adam Eckfeldt, Chief Coiner of the Mint during a long series of years, and the friend of every one connect-

Mint of the United States

Feb. 14, 1853

The Commissioners appointed for the purpose of making the annual trial of the gold & silver coins reserved at the Mint of the United States & its Branches, under the provisions of the 32^d section of the act of Jan. 18, 1837, met at the Mint on Monday the 14th of February 1853.

The Chair was taken by the Hon. Judge Davis, and Robert Patterson, Secretary Clerk, acted as Secretary.

The 32^d section of the Mint Act of Jan. 18, 1837, containing the provisions under which the Commission is constituted, was then read, and also letters from the Secretary of the Treasury, officially announcing the special Commissioners designated by the President.

A majority of the whole number of Commissioners legally constituted was found to be present; namely, the Hon. John R. Davis, Judge of the District Court of the United States for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, and William D. Lewis, Esq. Collector of the Port of Philadelphia, they being Commissioners *ex officio*. The Commissioners present, who had been specially designated by the President, were Prof. Joseph Henry, of Washington, Professor J. D. Dana of New Haven, and Dr. Jas R. Chilton of New York, the Hon. T. S. Stanton, of Tennessee, and the Hon. Henry A. Muhlenberg of Pennsylvania. The Commissioners absent were John W. Astorhead, Esq. Attorney of the U. S. for the E. Dist. of Pa., a Commissioner *ex officio*, and the Hon. the S. M. T. Hunter, ^{of Pa} Jas. A. Pearce, ^{of Pa} & Richard Prosshead

1854.

Mint of the United States

Feb 13th 1854.

The commissioners appointed for the purpose of making the annual trial of the gold & silver coins reserved at the Mint of the United States & its Branches, under the provisions of the 32nd section of the act of Jan. 18, 1837. met at the Mint on Monday the 13th of February 1854.

The chair was taken by the Hon Judge Kane, and M^r C. Linderman, Director Clerk, acted as secretary.

The 32nd section of the Mint act of Jan 18, 1837, containing the provisions under which the commission is constituted, was then read, and also letters from the Secretary of the Treasury, officially announcing the special commissioners specially designated by the President.

A majority of the whole number of commissioners legally constituted was found to be present, namely, the Hon John K. Kane, Judge of the district Court of the United States for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, and Charles Brown Esq. Collector of the port of Philadelphia, they being commissioners ex officio. The commissioners present, who had been specially designated by the President, were the Hon, Geo. S. Houston of Alabama, Prof. Smith of Washington, Prof. R. E. Rogers of Philadelphia, Prof Alexander of Baltimore, and Robert Patterson Esq of Philadelphia. The commissioners absent were John W. Ashmun Esq Attorney of the United States for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, a commissioner ex officio, and the Honorable R. M. T. Hunter of W. I. C. Buckenridge of

of the gold and silver coins of the United States, specially designated.

The minutes of the last annual meeting were then read, and the laws bearing upon the duties of the Commissioners, viz sections 8, 9, 10, 22, 25 & 27 of the act of Jan. 18, 1837; section 4th of the act of Mar. 3, 1835; the act of Mar 3, 1849; and the act of May 19, 1828.

On motion of Mr. Lewis the following resolutions were adopted regulating the order of the proceedings of the present commission: viz

1. Resolved, That the Commissioners will proceed
1/ To open the packages of the assay coins reserved at the Mint & Branches, for the purposes of the annual trial, under the provisions of § 27 of the act of Jan. 18, 1837, and of § 4 of the act of Mar 3, 1835, and to compare the weight thereof with the legal weight corresponding to their value as registered at the time of their deposit.
- 2/ Further to verify the correspondence of such coins to their legal weight by weighing specimens taken indiscriminately from the coins so reserved.
- 3/ To ascertain the fineness thereof by assays of the aggregate, as near as may be practicable, of the gold & silver coins so reserved, and comparing the results with the legal standards.
- 4/ To cause the accuracy of the weights ordin-

1855.

Mint of the United States
February 12.

The commissioners appointed for the purpose of making the Annual trial of the gold and silver coins reserved at the Mint of the United States and its Branches, under the provisions of the 32^d Section of the Act of Jan. 18, 1837, met at the Mint on Monday the 12th of February 1855.

The Chair was taken by the Hon. Judge Kane, and A. W. Linderman Directors Clerk, acted as Secretary.

The 32^d Section of the Mint Act of January 18, 1837, containing the provisions under which the commission is constituted, was then read, and also a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, officially announcing the commissioners specially designated by the President.

A majority of the whole number of commissioners legally constituted was found to be present; namely, The Hon. John K. Kane, Judge of the District Court of the United States for the eastern District of Pennsylvania - James Handyshe, Esqr, Attorney for the same District, and Charles Brown, Esqr, Collector of the Port of Philadelphia, they being commissioners ex officio. The commissioners present who had been specially designated by the President, were Prof L. M. Bailey of West Point,

Hartwick, & Geo. McFarland of Pennsylvania.

The minutes of the last Annual Meeting were then read, and the laws bearing upon the duties of the Commissioners, viz Sections 8, 9, 10, 22, 25 & 27, of the act of Jan 18th 1837; Section 4th of the act of March 3, 1835; the act of March 3, 1849; the act of May 19, 1828; Sec 4th of the act of March 3, 1851. Sec 1st of the act of Feb 21st 1853, and the act of March 3, 1853.

On motion of Robert Patterson Esq, the following resolutions ^{were adopted} regulating the order of the proceedings of the present Commission, viz:

I. Resolved, That the several duties hereinafter specified, as comprising the whole business of this commission, shall be referred to the special charge and supervision of two committees, with power to associate such other members of the commission as they may think proper; namely: the Committee on weights, and the Committee on assays.

II. The committee on weights shall cause to be opened, in their presence, the packages of assay coins reserved at the Mint & its Branches, to be immediately distributed into the following nine parcels, in as many pans or dishes properly labelled, and as far as convenient in the following order.

- 1st The Silver coins of the principal Mint, larger than the three cent piece, coined prior to April 1st, 1853; and dollars coined in any part of the year.
2. The same coined after the 1st of April 1853, except the dollars.

1836
Mint of the United States
February 11.

The Commissioners appointed for the purpose of making the Annual trial of the Gold and Silver Coins reserved at the Mint of the United States and its Branches, under the provisions of the 32nd Section of the Act of January 18th 1837 met at the Mint on Monday the 11th of February 1836.

The Chair was taken by the Hon. John C. Kane, and Dr. H. R. Linderman Directors Clerk acted as Secretary.

The 32nd Section of the Mint Act of January 18th 1837, containing the provisions under which the Commission is constituted, was then read, and also a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury officially announcing the commissioners specially designated by the President.

A majority of the whole number of commissioners legally constituted, was found to be present, namely, the Hon. John C. Kane, Judge of the District Court of the United States, for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, James C. Bandyke Esq., Attorney for the same District, and Charles Brown Esq., Collector of the Port of Philadelphia, they being commissioners ex officio. The Commissioners present who had been specially designated by the President, were Dr. Paul W. Bache of Philadelphia, Capt. A. H. Bowman of Washington City and Col. Vladimir Broset of Virginia. But one of the

J. H. B. Latrobe, Esqr. of Baltimore, Dr. J. H. C.
McClinton, Dr. Andrew Bedford and Abner
McClure of Pennsylvania. The commissioners
absent were Dr. King and Prof. W. Draper of New
York.

The minutes of the last Annual meeting
were then read, and the laws bearing upon the
duties of the Commissioners, viz. Sections 8, 9, 10, 22,
23 & 27th of the Act of January 18th 1837, Section 4th
of the Act of March 3^d 1835, the act of March 3^d
1849, the act of May 19th 1828, Sec. 4th of the Act
of March 3^d 1831, Sections 1st ^{and 7th} of the Act of February
21st 1853, and the Act of March 3^d 1853 and Section 12th
of the Act of March 4, 1853.

On motion of James S. Landyke, Esqr. the
following resolutions were adopted regulating the
order of the proceedings of the present commission
viz:

I. Resolved, that the several duties hereinafter
specified, as comprising the whole business of this
commission, shall be referred to the special charge
and supervision of two Committees, with power to
associate such other members of the Commission
as they may think proper; namely: The Committee on
Weights, and the Committee on Assays.

II. The Committee on Weights shall cause to be
opened, in their presence, the packages of Assay Coins
at the Mint and its Branches, to be immediately dis-
tributed into the following nine parcels in as many

Special Commissioners being absent, namely, James M. Cornick Esq. of Pennsylvania.

The minutes of the last Annual Meeting were then read, and the Laws bearing upon the duties of the Commissioners, viz: Sections 8, 9, 10, 22, 25 and 27. of the Act of January 18, 1837, Section 4th of the Act of March 3, 1835, the Act of March 3^d 1849; the Act of May 19, 1828; Sec 4th of the Act of March 3, 1857, Sections 1st & 7th of the Act of February 21, 1853, the Act of March 3^d 1853, and Section 12th of the Act of March 4th 1853.

On motion of James LeBaudyke Esq., the following resolutions were adopted regulating the proceedings of the present Commission, viz:

I. Resolved that the several duties hereinafter specified, as comprising the whole business of this commission, shall be referred to the special charge and ~~supervision~~ ^{supervision} of two Committees, with power to associate such other members of the commission as they may think proper; namely: the Committee on Weights, and the Committee on Assays.

II. The Committee on Weights shall cause to be opened, in this presence, the packages of Assay Loins at the Mint and its Branches, to be immediately distributed in the following ten parcels in as many pans or dishes properly labelled, and as far as convenient in the following order:

- 1st Gold Loins of the principal Mint
- 2nd Gold Loins of the Branch Mint San Francisco
Prior to the 20th August last
- 3^d Gold Loins of the Branch Mint San Francisco
Subsequent to the 20th August last.

1857.
Mint of the United States
February 9th

The Commissioners appointed for the purpose of making the Annual trial of the Gold and Silver coins reserved at the Mint of the United States, and its Branches, under the provisions of the 32nd Section of the Act of January 18, 1837, met at the Mint on Monday the 9th of February, 1857.

The Chair was taken by the Hon. John K. Kane, and H. R. Lindenman Director Clerk acted as Secretary.

The 32nd Section of the Mint Act of January 18th 1837, containing the provisions under which the Commission is constituted, was then read, and also, a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury officially announcing the Commissioners specially designated by the President.

A majority of the whole number of Commissioners legally constituted, was found to be present, namely, the Hon. John K. Kane, Judge of the District Court of the United States for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, and Charles Brown Esq. Collector of the Port of Philadelphia, they being Commissioners ex officio. The Commissioners present who had been specially designated by the President, were T. A. Hayes of Boston, and John R. Hendley of Philadelphia, Maj. J. H. Bowman, U. S. A. and Prof.

Socrates Manpien of Virginia. The Commissioners absent, were James C. Bundy Esq Attorney of the United States for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania a Commissioner ex officio, and Prof. H. L. Anderson of New York, a Commissioner specially designated.

The laws bearing upon the duties of the Commissioners were then read, viz: Sections 8, 9, 10, 22 and 27th of the Act of January 18, 1837. Section 4th of the Act of March 3, 1835, the Act of March 3^d, 1849; the Act of May 19th, 1828; Sec. 4th of the Act of March 3^d, 1851, Sections 10th & 17th of the Act of February 21, 1853, and Section 12th of the Act of March 4th, 1853, and also, the Minutes of the last Annual Meeting.

The Rules for the organization and government of the Board of Commissioners, as prepared by the Committee, appointed at the last Annual Meeting (and printed in pamphlet form), were then read, and no modification or alteration thereof being suggested, the Chairman ^{of the Board} announced that they would be recognized as the Rules for the organization and government of the Board.)

The reserved coins of the Mint of the U. States at Philadelphia, and those received from the several Branches thereof being then produced by the Director, the Board proceeded to distribute them in separate parcels (Rule IV) and ascertain their number by weight (Rule V) which was found to be as follows:

1858
Mint of the United States.
February 8th

The commissioners appointed for the purpose of making the annual trial of the gold and silver coins reserved at the Mint of the United States, and its Branches, under the provisions of the act of January 18th 1837, met at the Mint on Monday the 8th day of February 1858.

The chair was taken by the Hon. John R. Kane, and H. R. Linderman Director's clerk acted as Secretary.

The 32nd section of the Mint act of January 18th 1837, containing the provisions under which the commission is constituted, was then read, and also, letters from the Hon. Howell Cobb, Secretary of the Treasury, officially, announcing the commissioners specially designated by the President.

A majority of the whole number of commissioners legally constituted was found to be present, namely, the Hon. John R. Kane, Judge of the District Court of the United States for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania; James L. Barclay Esq, Attorney of the United States for the same District, and, Geo Joseph B.

Baker, collector of the Port of Philadelphia, they being commissioners ex officio. The commissioners present who had been specially designated by the President ^{there} ^N John Miller, George Plitt and Pierce Butler Esqrs. of Philadelphia, and Dr John L. Atlee of Lancaster. The commissioners absent were Hon Robert M. McLane of Baltimore, and Gen^l Ward B. Burnett of New York.

The several laws bearing upon the duties of the Commissioners were then read, namely, sections 8, 9, 10, 22 and 27th of the Act of the 18th January, 1837; section 3^d of the act of March 3^d 1833; the Act of March 3^d 1849; the Act of May 19, 1828; section 4th of the act of March 3^d 1857, sections 1st and 7th of the Act of February 21, 1853, and section 12th of the act of March 4th 1853, ^{also of} the Rules for the organization and government of the Board, and ~~also~~ the minutes of the last Annual meeting.

The following communication was received from the Director of the Mint:

Unit of the United States
Philad^a Feb 8, 1858.

Dear Sir:

At the N. Branch Mint, at San Francisco, the following changes of Officers have been made during the year 1857 viz:

Peter Lott was Superintendent during the part of the Year ending on the 31st

1859.
Mint of the United States.
February 14th

The commissioners appointed for the purpose of making the annual trial of the gold and silver coins reserved at the Mint of the United States and its branches, under the provisions of the act of January 18th 1837, met at the Mint on Monday the 14th day of February 1859.

The chair was taken by the Hon John Cadwallader, and H. R. Linderman Director acted as Secretary.

The letters from the Hon Horrell Cobb, Secretary of the Treasury, officially announcing the commissioners specially designated by the President were then read, also, the 32nd Section of the Mint Act of January 18, 1837, containing the provisions under which the commission is constituted.

A majority of the whole number of commissioners legally constituted was found to be present, namely, the Hon. John Cadwallader, Judge of the District Court of the United States for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania; James C. Bandyke Esq, Attorney of the United States for the same District, and Col Joseph B. Baker Esq collector of the Port of Philadelphia they being commissioners ex officio. The commissioners present who held

been specially designated by the President
were Brevet Major H. L. Kendrick U.S.A. Prof.
of Chemistry, at West Point Military Academy,
Prof. A. Cassell of Brown University, Providence
R.I. Robert Ewing Esq. Frederick Haley Esq.
and John James Esq. of the City of Philadelphia.
Hon. Thos. G. Pratt of Maryland, a commissioner
specially designated was not in attendance.

On motion the rules originally adopted
by the commission of the year 1857 were
adopted as rules for the organization and govern-
ment of this commission.

The reading of the several laws bearing
upon the duties of the Commission, the Rules for
the organization and government of the Board,
and the minutes of the last preceding assay,
was on motion of Prof. Cassell dispensed
with.

At this stage of the proceedings of the
Board, the Director of the Mint made the following
remarks: I wish to perform a melancholy duty, namely,
to suggest that some mementos should be placed
on the minutes of this Board to express its respect,
for the memory of the Hon. John R. Kane, who, for
many years presided at the Annual trials of
the courage of the United States.

At the last Annual assay, with
characteristic devotion to his public duties, Major
Kane arose from a sick bed to take his accustomed

1860.
Mint of the United States.
February 13th

The commissioners appointed for the purpose of making the annual trial of the gold and silver coins reserved at the Mint of the United States and its Branches, under the provisions of the Act of January 18, 1837, met at the Mint on Monday the 13th day of February 1860.

The chair was taken by the Hon John Cadwalader, and H. R. Linderman Director's clerk, acted as Secretary.

The letter of the Hon Howell Cobb, Secretary of the Treasury, officially announcing the commissioners special designated by the President was then read; also the minutes of the last preceding assay.

A majority of the whole number of commissioners legally constituted was found to be present, namely, the Hon John Cadwalader, Judge of the District Court of the United States for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania; James C. Vanduyke Esq, Attorney, of the United States for the same District, and Joseph B. Baster Esq, Collector of the Port of Philadelphia; they being commissioners ex officio. The commissioners present

1860

who had been specially designated by the President were Dr H. A. P. Barnard, of Mississippi, Prof Robert Bridges, of Pennsylvania, Dr Zina Pitcher, of Michigan, Hon James M. Porter, Hon Asa Packler, and Prof Thomas C. Porter of Pennsylvania. Dr Henry L. Anderson, of New York, Dr J. C. Hall of Washington City, and Dr R. M. Gibbs, of South Carolina, Commissioners specially designated were not in attendance.

On motion the rules originally adopted by the Commission of the year 1857 were adopted as rules for the organization and government of this Commission.

The reading of the several laws bearing upon the duties of the Commission, the Rules for the ^{organization and} government of the Board, was on motion dispensed with.

The Director of the Mint informed the Commission that there had been a change in the Coiners office at the Branch Mint San Francisco, John M. Colfedt Esq, having been coiner from the first part of the year to the 18th of March inclusive. He was succeeded by R. W. Slocumb Esq, who entered upon the duties of Coiner on the 19th of March.

Whereupon, it was directed by the Board, that the coins of the Branch Mint San Francisco,

1861

Mint of the United States

February 11th

The commissioners appointed for the purpose of making the annual trial of the gold and silver coins preserved at the Mint of the United States and its branches, under the provisions of the Act of January 18, 1837, met at the Mint on Monday, the 11th day of February 1861.

The Chair was taken by the Hon John Cadwalader, and St. Rensselaer, Directors Clerk, acted as Secretary.

The letter of the Hon John A. Dix, Secretary of the Treasury, officially announcing the Commissioners specially designated by the President was then read; also the minutes of the last preceding assay.

A majority of the whole number of Commissioners legally constituted was found to be present, namely, the Hon John Cadwalader, Judge of the District Court of the United States for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania; George M. Wharton Esq, Attorney of the United States

for the same district; and Joseph B. Butler Esq., collector of the Port of Philadelphia; they being Commissioners ex-officio. The Commissioners present, who had been specially designated by the President, were Dr. R. E. Rogers, Dr. J. J. Reed, J. Francis Fisher Esq and Col W. H. Reichline of Philadelphia, Dr John Maclean of New Jersey; Dr Francis Lieber and Dr John Torrey of New York.

On motion the Rules originally adopted by the Commission of the Year 1857 were adopted as rules for the organization and government of this Commission.

The reading of the several laws bearing upon the duties of the Commission, the rules for the organization and government of the Board, was on motion dispensed with.

The Director of the Mint informed the Commission, that there had been a change in the Office of Superintendent of the N Branch Mint at Dahlonega, Ga, I. M. Patton having been Superintendent and ex-officio Treasurer, from the first part of the year to the 30th of September inclusive. His successor ^{and} George Kellogg Esq. having entered upon his duties.

1862.
Mint of the United States.
February 10th

The Commissioners appointed for the purpose of making the annual trial of the gold and silver coins reserved at the mint of the United States and its Branches, under the provisions of the Act of January 18. 1837, met at the Mint on Monday the 10th day of February 1862.

The Chair was taken by the Hon John Cadwalader and H. R. Linderman, Directors Clerk, acted as Secretary.

The letter of the Hon S. P. Chase, Secretary of the Treasury, officially announcing the Commissioners specially designated by the President was then read; also, the 32^d Section of the General Mint Law and the Minutes of the last preceding Assay.

A majority of the whole number of Commissioners legally constituted was found to be present, namely, the Hon John Cadwalader, Judge of the District Court of the United States for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania; George A. Loper Esq, —

1862

Attorney of the United States for the same district and William B. Thomas Esq. Collector of the Port of Philadelphia; they being Commissioners ex officio. The Commissioners present, who had been specially designated by the President, were, Prof. Joseph Henry, of the District of Columbia; Prof. John Torrey, of New York, and President J. M. Sturtevant of Ill.

On motion, the Rules originally adopted by the Commission of the year 1857, were adopted as rules for the organization and government of this Commission.

The reading of the several laws bearing upon the duties of the Commission, the Rules for the organization and government of the Board, was, on motion, dispensed with.

The following communication was received from the Director of the Mint, and on motion, was directed to be entered on the Minutes:

"Mint of the United States
Philadelphia Feb. 10. 1862.

Hon. John Badwelder,

Chairman, Board of Assay Commissioners,

Dear Sir,

I have to inform

1863.

Mint of the United States.

February 9th.

This being the day fixed by the 32nd section of the Act of January 18th 1837, for ^{the} meeting of the Commission to make the annual trial of the gold and silver coinage of the United States, the Commissioners present, were, Hon John Cadwalader, Judge of the District Court of the United States for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, and William B. Thomas Esq. collector of the Port of Philadelphia, they being Commissioners ex officio. The Commissioners present who had been specially designated, by the President of the United States, were, Prof. Joseph Henry of the District of Columbia. Dr Theodore S. Bell of N.Y., and Prof. John Loomy, of N.Y. A majority of the whole number of Commissioners legally constituted not being present, the Director of the Mint, in pursuance of the Authority conferred upon him by law, appointed the next day at 9 O'clock A.M. for the meeting of the Commissioners, which was concurred in by all of the Commissioners present.

February 10th 9 O'clock A.M. A quorum being present, the chair was taken by the Hon John Cadwalader, and Henry R. Lindersmann, Directors Clerk, acted as Secretary.

1863.

The letter of the Hon S. P. Chase, Secretary of the Treasury, officially announcing the Commissioners specially designated by the President, was then read: also, the 32nd section of the General Mint Law.

The reading of the Minutes of the last preceding Assay, was, on motion dispensed with.

A majority of the whole number of Commissioners legally constituted was found to be present, namely, the Hon John Cadwalader, Judge of the District Court of the United States for the Eastern District of Penn^a, George A. Cogges, Esq. U. S. Attorney for the same District, and William B. Thomas, Esq. Collector of the Port of Philadelphia: they being Commissioners ex officio: The Commissioners present, who had been specially designated by the President, were Prof Joseph Henry, Dr Theodore S. Bell, Prof John Torrey, Charles D. Drake of Mo: Prof Fairman Rogers and Isaac Hazlehurst Esq. of Pennsylvania: Prof Agassiz and Hon Edward Everett of Mass. and Prof L. A. Alexander of Md. Commissioners specially designated, were not in attendance.

On motion, the Rules originally adopted, by the Commission of the year 1857, were adopted as Rules for the organization and government of this Commission,

1864
District of the United States
February 8th

This being the day fixed by the 3rd section of the Act of January 18, 1837, for the meeting of the Commissioners to make the Annual trial of the Gold and Silver Coinage of the United States, the Commissioners present, were, Hon John Cadwalader, Judge of the District Court of the United States for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, George A. Coffey Esq., Attorney of the United States for the same District, and William B Thomas Esq. Collector of the Port of Philadelphia, they being Commissioners ex officio. The Commissioners present who had been specially designated, by the President of the United States, were, Prof. Joseph Henry, Washington D.C. Prof. Samman Rogers and R. H. Rand, Philadelphia. Hugh McCulloch, Washington D.C. Prof J. H. Alexander, Baltimore, ^{Hon} John P. Putnam Esq of Boston & Prof John Torrey of New York & Dr. J. R. Kittell of Pittsburg.

The Chair was taken by the Hon John Cadwalader, and H. R. Linderman, Director Clerk, acted as Secretary.

The letter of the Hon S. P. Chase, Secretary of

1865-

Minut of the United States,
February 13th 1865-

This being the day fixed by the 32nd Sec. of the Act of January 18. 1837. for the meeting of the Commission to make the annual trial of the gold & silver coinage of the United States, the Commissioners present were, Hon John Cadwallader, Judge of the District Court of the United States for the Eastern District of Penna, & Charles Gilpin Esq Attorney of the United States for the same District, they being the commissioners ex-officio.

The commissioners present who had been specially designated by the President were, Prof John Torrey of New York. Prof Henry Morton & John F. Trauger of Philadelphia President John Maclean. Purinton W. J. Henry Davenport Esq of Boston & Hugh M^c Culloch Esq of Washington. D.C.

The chair was taken by the Hon Judge

1865-

Cadwallader, and S. H. Pollock, Director's
Clark acted as Secretary.

The letter of the Secretary of the Treasury
officially announcing the Special Com-
missioners appointed by the President was
then read. On motion the reading of the
minutes of the last Annual Assay, and
the laws relating to the Assay was dispensed
with.

On motion the rules adopted by the Com-
mission of the year 1857, were adopted as
the rules for the guidance & government of
this Commission.

A telegram was then read by the Director
of the Mint from Prof Jos. Henry of Wash-
ington, regretting his inability to be present.

The Director also announced that there had
been no changes made in the Officers of the
Mint or Branches during the past year.

The sealed packages containing the coins
received at the Mint of the United States
and Branch Mint at San Francisco, Cal?
were then produced by the Director of the
Mint ^{the coins received} & were compared with the returns

1866

Mont of the United States

February 12th 1866

This being the day fixed by the 32^d Section of the Act of Congress, January 18th 1837 for the meeting of the Commission, to make the annual trial of the gold and silver coinage of the United States.

The Commissioners present were. Hon John Cadwallader, Judge of the District Court of the United States for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania ^{and Col. W^m B. Thomas, Collector of the Port of Philadelphia} and Charles Celpin Esq, Attorney of the United States for the same District, they being the Commissioners Ex-officio -

The Commissioners present who had been specially designated by the President were Prof John Torrey of New York, Prof Joseph Henry of Washington, Prof James McCune of Philadelphia, Prof Fairman Rogers of Philadelphia, Dr. T. S. Bell of Louisville, Henry Davenport Esq of Boston, J. H. Alexander Esq. of Baltimore, Jonas R. McClintock Esq. of Pittsburgh

The chair was taken by the Hon Judge Cadwallader, and W. C. Pollock acted as Secretary. The letter of the Secretary of

1867

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia, Feby. 11th 1867

The Commissioners appointed for the purpose of making the Annual trial of the Gold and Silver coins reserved at the Mint of the U. S. and its Branches, under the provisions of the Act of January 18. 1837, met at the Mint on Monday, the 11th day of February, 1867.

The Chair was taken by the Hon. John Cadwalader, and A. Trasher Jr. Director's Clerk acted as Secretary.

The letter of Hon. Hugh McCulloch, Secretary of Treasury officially announcing the Commissioners specially designated by the President was then read.

A majority of the whole number of Commissioners legally constituted was found to be present, namely the Hon. Jas. Cadwalader, Judge of the District Court of U. S. for the Eastern District of Penna.; Chas. Gilpin Esq. U. S. Attorney for Eastern District Penna.;

Prof. Joseph Henry of Washington D.C., Prof. Robt. E. Rogers of Philadelphia, " Geo. J. Brush of New Haven Conn. Prof. Chas. M. Wetherill of Bethlehem Pa. Prof. J. H. Alexander of Baltimore Md, Prof. John Torrey of New York, Prof. Stephen Alexander of Princeton N.J. —
Wm. A. Appleton of Boston Mass, and then Hon. Saml. B. Ruggles of New York.

The Director of the Mint informed the Com.

1868.

Mint of the United States
Monday Feb'y 10th 1868

The commissioners appointed under the 32nd Sec of the Act of Jan'y 18th 1837 met in conformity with the provisions of that act for the purpose of making the Annual trial of the gold and silver coins, reserved at the Mint and its branches during the year 1867. The chair was taken by the Hon John Cadwallader and Arthur Thacher Jr Directors clerk acted as Secretary. On motion the rules adopted by the Commission of 1837 were prescribed for the guidance and government of this Commission. The letter of the Hon Hugh McCulloch, Sec'y of the Treasury officially announcing the Commissioners specially designated by the President was then read. The following commissioners were present.

Hon John Cadwallader,	{ Judge of the District Court of the
	{ U. S. for the Eastern Dist of Penns.
Jos W. Coker Esq	Collector of the Port of Philadelphia
Prof Joseph Henry	Washington. D. C.
Dr T. S. Bell	Louisville, Ky
Dr Jonas R. McClintock	Pittsburgh. Pa.

1866

Mr. Newton Jr Esq	San Francisco, Cal
Mr. Jay Knox Esq	Washington
Franklin Pease Esq	Philadelphia
Hon John P. Putnam	Boston
Hon Saml B. Ruggles	New York

A letter dated July 3rd 1867 written by the Director and addressed to the officers of the Mint, prescribing the following regulations, was then read. "The adjustment of weight of single pieces of Gold and Silver coin must be so performed as to satisfy the Comr that they are within the legal limits; and when a delivery of coin is made by that officer to the Treasurer, the latter may first examine a number of single pieces to form an idea of the whole working, but there is to be no selection of pieces for the trial of the Annual Assay, nor a weighing of them by the Assayer" The Chief Comr reported the above regulations to have taken effect on July 20th 1867. It was then resolved that the coinage of the U. S. Mint prior and subsequent to July 25th be divided into two parcels for the purpose of testing the accuracy of the weight and fineness of the same. viz: those coined from Jan'y 1st to July 25th inclusive in one parcel and from July 26th to Dec. 31st inclusive in another parcel. The coins reserved at the Branch

1869.

Mint of the United States
Monday February 8th 1869

The Commissioners appointed under the 32^d Section of the Act of January 1834 met in conformity with the provisions of that Act for the purpose of making the Annual trial of the gold and silver coins reserved at the Mint and its Branches during the year 1868. The chair was taken by the Hon John Cadwalader and Arthur Thacher Jr Directors Clerk, acted as Secretary. On motion the rules adopted by the Commission of 1854 were prescribed for the guidance and government of this Commission.

The letter of the Hon Hugh McCulloch, Secretary of the Treasury, officially announcing the Commissioners specially designated by the President, was then read, also the 32^d Section of the general Mint law

1869

The following Commissioners were present:

Hon John Cabotvalader	Judge of the District Court of the U.S. for the Eastern District of Pa
Joseph W. Bate Esq	Collector of the Port of Philadelphia
John P. O'Neill Esq	Attorney of the U.S. for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania
Prof Joseph Henry	of Washington D.C
" John Torrey "	New York
" E. Howard Ganeb "	Philadelphia
John Jay Knox Esq	Washington
Edwin H. Little Esq	Philadelphia
Hon George Walker	Springfield Mass
Jonas R. Whitlock Esq	Pittsburgh Pa
Elias H. Derby Esq	Boston Mass
Prof William P. Blake	San Francisco Cal
Prof Arthur L. Levy	Williamstown Mass
Matthew L. Leitch	Hudson Ohio

The Director of the Mint reported that the assay coins reserved from the coinage of the Branch Mint at San Francisco, for the months of November & December 1868 had not been received.

On motion it was resolved

1870

Mint of the United States

Monday February 14th 1870

The Commissioners appointed under the 32^d Section of the Act of January 1837 met in conformity with the provision of that Act, for the purpose of making the Annual trial of the Gold, and Silver Coins, reserved at the Mint, and its Branches during the year 1869.) The Chair was taken by Hon John Cadwalader, and Henry C. Hickok, Director's Clerk, acted as secretary.

The letter of Hon Geo. S. Boutwell, Secretary of the Treasury, Officially announcing the Commissioners specially designated by the President was then read.

The following Commissioners were present.
Hon John Cadwalader Judge of the District Court of the U. S.
for the Eastern District of Penna

Hubrey H. Smith Esq Attorney of the U. S. for the Eastern
District of Penna

Hon Henry D. Moore Collector of the Port of Philadelphia Pa
Prof Joseph Henry Smithsonian Inst Washington City D.C.

" John Torrey U. S. Assay Office New York

" Thomas Eggleston Jr. Prof Mineralogy & School Mines Columbia
College New York

Hon A. E. Bore Philadelphia Penna

1870

Dr. Saml. A. Green

Boston Mass

Hon Daniel Applegate

Cincinnati Ohio

" John Jay Kuel

Treasury Department

On motion the rules adopted by the Commission of 1857, were prescribed for the guidance, and government of this Commission.

A quorum being present ON motion the reading of the laws under which the Commission is constituted and its duties prescribed; together with the rules for the organization, and government of the Board; and the minutes of the last preceding Assay was dispensed with.

(A communication was received from Hon Jas Pollock Director of the Mint stating that a change had been made during the year 1869 in the Chief operative Officers of the Branch Mint at San Francisco Cal by the President and that the new Officers viz

O. H. LaGrange Superintendent

J. P. Cochran Melter & Refiner

J. B. Hamstead Coiner

O. D. Munson Assayer

took charge of their respective departments, and entered upon the performance of their official duties on the 14th day of August 1869.

The Director of the Mint also reported that the Assay

(1871. (1840)

Mint of the United States
Monday February 13th 1871

The Commissioners appointed under the 32^d Section of the Act of January 1837 met in conformity with the provision of that Act, for the purpose of making the Annual trial of the Gold, and Silver Coins reserved at the Mint and its Branches during the year 1870.

The Chair was taken by Hon John Cadwalader, and the Director's Clerk H. C. Hickok, was designated as Secretary.

Letters from Hon Geo. S. Boutwell, Secretary of the Treasury, Officially announcing the Commissioners specially designated by the President were then read.

The following Commissioners were present.

Hon John Cadwalader Judge of the District Court of the U. S.
for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania

Aubrey N. Smith Esq Attorney of the U. S. for the Eastern District
of Pennsylvania

Hon Henry D. Moore Collector of the Port of Philadelphia Penna

Prof Joseph Henry Smithsonian Institute Washington D. C.

" John Torrey U. S. Assay Office New York

Rev F. A. P. Barnard Pres^t Columbia College New York

J. C. Hilgard Esq Asst Supt Weights & Measures

1871

Hon A. R. Lindeman
Prof Fairman Rogers
Hon John Jay Knox
Hon John C. Putnam
C. B. Elliott Esq
Robt J. Stercus Esq
M. C. Read Esq

Philadelphia, Penna,
Do Do,
Deputy Comptroller of the Currency,
Boston, Mass.
Washington, D.C.
San Francisco, Cal
Hudson, Ohio.

On motion the rules adopted by the Commission of 1857, were prescribed for the guidance, and government of this Commission.

A quorum being present on motion the reading of the laws under which the Commission is constituted and its duties prescribed; together with the rules for the organization, and government of the Board; were dispensed with.

The Chairman laid before the Commission a communication received by him from the Secretary of the Treasury in reference to the Double Eagles coined at San Francisco during the past year; which was read and ordered to be entered on the Minutes; to wit-

Treasury Department
January 30th 1871

Sir

I have to request that the Assay Commission will at its meeting on the 13th of Feby next weigh separately each double eagle reserved from the Coinage at the Branch Mint San Fran.

1872

Mint of the United States

Monday February 12th 1872

The Commissioners appointed under the 32^d Section of the Act of January 1837 met in conformity with the provisions of that Act, for the purpose of making the annual trial of the Gold, and Silver Coins reserved at the Mint and its Branches during the year 1871.

The Chair was taken by Hon John Cadwalader and the Director's Clerk W. C. Hickok was designated as Secretary

Letters from Hon Geo. S. Boutwell, Secretary of the Treasury, Officially announcing the Commissioners specially designated by the President were then read

The following Commissioners were present.

Hon John Cadwalader Judge of the District Court of the U. S.
for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania

Aubrey N. Smith Esq Attorney of the U. S. for the Eastern
District of Pennsylvania

Hon John W. Forney Collector of the Port of Philadelphia Pa

Prof. John Torrey U. S. Assay Office New York

Rev. F. A. P. Barnard President Columbia College New York

Prof Fairman Rogers Philadelphia

Hon Geo. W. Stuart Philadelphia

1872

Hon John Jay Knox

Depty. Comptroller of the Currency

Prof W. P. Blake

New Haven. Conn

R. J. Stevens Esq

San Francisco. California

Samuel A. Green M.D.

Boston Mass

Prof George Davidson

U. S. Coast Survey. San Francisco

Hon R. W. Taylor

First Comptroller of the Treasury

On motion the rules adopted by the Commission of 1857 were prescribed for the guidance, and government of this Commission.

A quorum being present, on motion the reading of the laws under which the Commission is constituted and its duties prescribed; Together with the rules for the organization, and government of the Board; were dispensed with.

The Chairman laid before the Commission a communication received by him from Hon James Pollock Director of the Mint announcing that no change was made, during the calendar year 1871, in any of the officers that are responsible for the coinage, in the Mint of the United States, or the Branch Mints at San Francisco, California, and Carson City, Nevada.

1873

Mint of the United States

Monday February 10th 1873.

The Commissioners appointed under the 32^d Section of the Act of January 1837, met in conformity with the provisions of that Act, for the purpose of making the Annual trial of the Gold and Silver Coins reserved at the Mint and its Branches during the year 1872.

The Chair was taken by Hon. John Cadwalader and the Director's Clerk, H. C. Hickok was designated as Secretary.

Letters from the Hon. Geo. S. Boutwell, Secretary of the Treasury, Officially announcing the Commissioners specially designated by the President, were then read.

The following Commissioners were present;

Hon. John Cadwalader Judge of the District Court of the U. S.
for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania

Aubrey H. Smith Esq Attorney of the U. S. for the Eastern
District of Pennsylvania

Hon. Seth S. Comly Collector of the Port of Philadelphia, Pa.

Prof. W. P. Blake New Haven, Conn.

Hon. H. R. Linderman Philadelphia Pa.

J. G. Fell Esq do do